

**MINUTES OF THE
MERRILLVILLE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 2016**

President L.J. “Bud” Crist called the April 5, 2016 Merrillville Stormwater Management Board (SWMB) meeting to order at 4:31 p.m. The pledge of allegiance was said. The other members in attendance were Barbara Ghoston and Ralph Simek. A roll call was taken, and a quorum was established. Staff present was Executive Director Matt Lake, Attorney James Meyer, financial advisor Karl Cender and secretary Liz Bushemi. Others present were Councilwoman Chrissy Barron - the Town Council liaison to the Stormwater Management Board, Bob Csanyi from Robinson Engineering, Dolores Flaska, Karen Caffarini from the *Post-Tribune* and Chas Riley from *The Times*.

MINUTES

Included in the agenda packet was a copy of the minutes from the March 1, 2016 SWMB meeting. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 1, 2016 SWMB meeting, and it was seconded by Ralph Simek. There were no questions. A voice vote was taken, and all members voted to approve the minutes from the March 1, 2016 meeting, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTERS APPROVAL

Also included in the agenda packet was a copy of the accounts payable registers from March 8, 2016 and March 22, 2016. Barbara Ghoston made a motion to approve the accounts payable registers from March 8, 2016 and March 22, 2016, and it was seconded by Ralph Simek. There were no questions. A voice vote was taken, and all members voted to approve the accounts payable registers from March 8, 2016 and March 22, 2016, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Regarding the Ross Meadow Farms project, Matt said Gough, Inc. contacted him, and Gough expects to start the project on Monday, April 11, and it should be completed within a month. Matt is preparing a “Stormwater Project in Progress” sign for this and other projects.

At the written recommendation of Carrie Pintar from Robinson Engineering, Gatlin Plumbing’s Pay Request #1 in the amount of \$100,469.60 was presented for work done on the 53rd Court/Meadowdale project. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve payment for Pay Request #1 in the amount of \$100,469.60 to Gatlin Plumbing, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. There were no questions. A roll call vote was taken, and all members voted to approve Gatlin Plumbing’s Pay Request #1 in the amount of \$100,469.60, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

Regarding the Southmoor Park subdivision drainage improvement project for work to be done on 78th Avenue and Jackson Street, members had received a copy of the Robinson Engineering proposal for design engineering services not to exceed \$14,295.00; Mr. Crist asked what line item the engineering would be paid from, and Matt said 394 - contractual services. Matt said this work with swales would be for the north end of the subdivision where drainage issues are most severe; he met with those residents but will need to seek funding for the project itself. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the Robinson Engineering proposal for design engineering services not to exceed \$14,295.00, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. Mrs. Ghoston asked if the residents are satisfied with this project, and Matt said yes; however, last time the town offered \$650,000 in tax increment financing (TIF) money, and he will now have to re-approach the Redevelopment Commission (RDC) for the potential \$200,000 funding for this project.

Matt said the residents were concerned about the side slopes and under drains; he said this would help the drainage issues on the north side of the subdivision. Mrs. Ghoston re-affirmed her second to the motion. A voice vote was taken, and all members voted to approve the Robinson Engineering proposal for design engineering services at Southmoor Park not to exceed \$14,295.00, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

Matt attended the LTAP Road School March 8-10 in West Lafayette, and said it was a good conference. He, Bud Crist, Ralph Simek and Councilwoman Barron will be attending the Indiana MS4 annual meeting in Indianapolis in May. He also said the StormCon conference in Indianapolis in August will be a good conference to attend.

NEW BUSINESS

Included in the members' packets was a copy of the proposal from Robinson Engineering for construction observation engineering services for a small project at 7108 Virginia Street for \$2,750.00. Matt wants this small project completed before the town paves Virginia Street. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the Robinson Engineering contract for \$2,750.00, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. There were no questions. A roll call vote was taken, and all members voted to approve the Robinson Engineering proposal for construction observation engineering services at 7108 Virginia Street in the amount of \$2,750.00, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

Also included in the members' packets was a proposal from Robinson Engineering for on-call engineering services requested by the Stormwater Executive Director or the Stormwater Management Board only not to exceed \$10,000.00. Matt said this is for when Robinson is asked to look at a site from a public complaint or small project to determine an analysis of the problem. Bob Csanyi from Robinson Engineering said they are occasionally called to look at a flooding complaint, where they review it and determine a conclusion. Ralph Simek made a motion to approve the Robinson Engineering proposal for on-call engineering services not to exceed \$10,000.00, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. Mrs. Ghoston asked about when the Public Works Department comes out and provides manual labor for small drainage jobs, and Matt said that will be another contract that the SWMB will have to address, like the culvert installation at 97th and Randolph Street; she also asked if per Robinson's proposal, the 2015 rates carry on, and Mr. Csanyi said yes. A roll call vote was taken, and all members voted to approve the Robinson Engineering proposal for on-call engineering services not to exceed \$10,000.00, and the motion unanimously passed with a 3/0 vote.

Matt said he would like to have similar contracts with other professional engineering companies for on-call engineering services and said Attorney Jim Meyer will be preparing a formal base contract, whether or not it is for a specific project, with a scope of services, and it will be drafted soon and forwarded to all board members.

Matt received a permit from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) for a prescribed burn permit for the Taft Street ponds. Stormwater Utility had hired Cardno to seek the permit, which is difficult to do in an urbanized area due to emissions. A prescribed burn is a way to manage natural plantings and native vegetation, where mowing does not have the same impact. He talked to Fire Chief Ed Yerga, who will have red-card certified and qualified people involved. A burn plan will be developed

with proper notice after checking wind speed, traffic, etc., and the burn is expected to take place in the fall, when conditions are dry enough to do a prescribed burn.

Matt said the town's rain barrel program has been launched, it is being advertised and the new brochures are available online and through all departments. The program is again being coordinated by UpCycle Products, who sells recycled food grade barrels. The cost of a rain barrel is \$54 if ordered by mail and \$56.50 online by credit card. The pickup date is Tuesday, May 10th, from 3:00 to 6:00 pm at the Stormwater Resource Center.

Matt has an article in the town's Spring, 2016, newsletter about stormwater pollution prevention; it addresses where residents can bring used oil to local oil change businesses listed in the newsletter. He said last week, he talked to a resident who was changing his car oil in his driveway and trying to collect the used oil in a Solo cup.

Matt is meeting with a representative of Congressman Peter Visclosky's office next week to discuss the Stormwater Master Plan and possible federal funding for projects in 2017.

Mr. Crist said he received information about the town's Monday, July 4, 2016, Independence Day parade, and he'd like Stormwater to participate once again. Matt said we will sign up for the parade, and any SWMB members are invited to participate.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ralph Simek said he received the "Save the Date" for the Christopher Burke Engineering Railcats game later in the summer in his packet, and he and Dolly plan to attend because they enjoy it each year.

Matt said the town had some flash floods on Thursday, March 31, 2016, and all calls were addressed by him, Joe Fish and the Stormwater crew. He said although there were a couple of isolated areas with problems, the call volume has dropped over the years because they address "hot spots" before rain events happen. Public Works crew members were also out that day cleaning storm sewer drains.

Bud Crist said a new guardrail was installed on 73rd Avenue east of Taft Street by Strack's. Mr. Simek asked about the guardrail on Taft Street, and Matt said the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) has still not responded to him, and it is their responsibility whether or not to replace it since Taft Street is a state road.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Crist said the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 4, 2016, at 4:30 pm at the Stormwater Resource Center since Election Day is Tuesday, May 3, 2016.

Ralph Simek made a motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Barbara Ghoston. The meeting was adjourned at 5:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Liz Bushemi
Staff Secretary